

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ANNOUNCES SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS AT EL DORADO CORRECTIONAL FACILITY-NORTH UNIT NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2009

Kansas Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz today announced that the operations at the El Dorado Correctional Facility (EDCF) – North Unit will be suspended no later than July 1, 2009.

“The Omnibus Spending Bill which included an additional 2.75% cut in agency budgets will require the Department of Corrections to reduce its FY 2010 budget by approximately \$6 million,” Secretary Werholtz said. “The North Unit at EDCF has an annual operating budget of approximately \$1.2 million and suspending operations there is one of the first of several steps the Department will take to meet the most recent budget reduction.”

The EDCF – North Unit (formerly known as the El Dorado Honor Camp) is a minimum security facility with a capacity for 102 inmates. Currently, the facility has a population of 102. Those inmates will be transferred to other facilities throughout the correctional system. At the present time, the Department has a total capacity for 8,099 male inmates, and a male population of 8,031. The Department is in the process of placing inmates at several facilities that have resulted in the facilities being over capacity. The Department does anticipate re-opening the “B” Housing Unit at Winfield Correctional Facility within the next several weeks, adding 176 beds for minimum security male inmates.

The North Unit employs 21 Full Time Equivalent state staff. Currently, 19 of those positions are filled. Those employees will be absorbed into currently vacant positions at the EDCF - Central Unit.

“We knew when the Omnibus Bill was approved last week that we would be faced with a number of difficult decisions, and this is one of the first of those,” Werholtz said. “Additional announcements will be made in coming days as decisions are made regarding other budget reductions.”

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